

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9, 11-16 and 18-34 are pending in this application. Of these pending claims, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9, 11-16 and 18-34 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 19, 20, and 22 have been amended herein.

The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding office action, and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-9, 11-13, 16, 18, and 33-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the Kitahara et al. ('253) reference.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly describe that a heater is positioned spaced apart from the media support, the heater being connected to the media support through the conductive path via a stationary connection. Support for this amendment can be found on at least page 6, lines 27 and 28 and in at least FIG. 6 of the specification.

The Kitahara et al. ('253) reference discloses a drier 227 formed with an electric heater mounted on a platen 226. Platen 226 is abutted on an inner surface of a transportation belt 224 (FIG. 42; paragraph [0263]). Belt 224 is an endless belt that is driven by a driving roller 223 (FIG. 42; paragraph [0262]). Printed paper 28 together with transportation belt 224 moves above drier 227 (and platen 226) during operation of printer 220 (FIG. 42; paragraph [0264]).

As the Kitahara et al. ('253) reference discloses that belt 224 continually moves over platen 226 (paragraph [0265]), it cannot be said that the Kitahara et al. ('253) reference discloses a heater connected to a media support through a conductive path via a stationary connection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4-6, 8-9, 11-13, 16, 18, and 33-34 depending from claim 1 are considered patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 1.

Applicants also note that head blocks 245-248 are positioned spaced apart from media support 244 and, as such, are not even in contact with media support 244, see Figure 44 and paragraph [0280] of the Kitahara et al. ('253) reference.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request clarification of this aspect of the rejection from the Examiner in a subsequent office action if a subsequent office action is deemed necessary by the Examiner.

Claims 19, 20, 30, and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Rasmussen et al. ('894) reference.

Claim 19 has been amended to more clearly describe that each of the plurality of heater extensions are connected to the media support via a stationary connection. Support for this amendment can be found on at least page 6, lines 27 and 28 and in at least FIG. 6 of the specification.

Claim 20 has been amended to more clearly describe providing an extension affixed to a support via a stationary connection. Support for this amendment can be found on at least page 6, lines 27 and 28 and in at least FIG. 6 of the specification.

The Ramussen et al. ('894) reference discloses a printer 10 including a heating device 201 positioned to heat a region of belt 32 (FIGS. 2A-5; col. 5, lines 3-11). Belt 32 is an endless-loop belt that is driven by motor 33 appropriately connected to a belt pulley 38 (FIG. 1; col. 1, lines 39-45). A preheat subsystem 310 including additional heaters 301 and 301' and belts 302 and 303 can be included with printer 10 (FIGS. 2A-5; col. 5, lines 50-60).

The Ramussen et al. ('894) reference does not disclose that heaters 201, 301, and 301' are affixed or connected via a stationary connection to belts 32, 302, and 303 through any type of heater extension. In fact, the Ramussen et al. ('894) reference appears to be completely silent on this feature of the present invention. This is because it would not be possible to drive belts 32, 302, and 303 in the manner described in the Ramussen et al. ('894) reference if any of these belts were connected to any of heaters 201, 301, and 301' via a stationary connection through a heater extension.

Additionally, the Ramussen et al. ('894) reference does not disclose that heaters 201, 301 and 301' are directly affixed or connected via a stationary connection to belt 32 or to belts 302 and 303. Although heating device 201 heats a region of belt 32, belt 32 is driven, so if heating device 32 were affixed or connected via a stationary connection to belt 32, belt 32 would not function as intended.

In fact, as it appears that belts 32, 302, and 303 are each driven (indicated by arrows associated with each belt in FIGS 2A-5), if any of heaters 201, 301 and 301' were affixed or connected via a stationary connection to any of belts 32, 302, and 303, it would not be possible to drive belts 32, 302, and 303 as described in the Ramussen et al. ('894) reference. Therefore, it can not be said that the Ramussen et al. ('894) reference discloses that each of the plurality of heater extensions are connected to the media support via a stationary connection as described in claim 19 or providing an extension affixed to a support via a stationary connection as described in claim 20. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claims 19 and 20 is respectfully requested.

Claims 30 and 31 depending from claim 19 are considered patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 19.

Regarding claim 31, it is submitted that the Rasmussen et al. ('894) reference uses the term "ironing" to describe a process of sandwiching the paper between belts 32 and 202 (col. 6, lines 42-47) and not a metal as asserted by the Examiner. The Rasmussen et al. ('894) reference also discloses that an ironing mechanism is used to press a sheet into a substantially planer configuration (col. 4, lines 14-16). Additionally, the Rasmussen et al. ('894) reference discloses that roller 501 which is used to iron the sheet of paper can be made from a soft material such as cellular silicone foam (col. 7, lines 5-10). Therefore, it cannot be said that the Rasmussen et al. ('894) reference discloses a metal heat conductive material. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 31 is respectfully requested.

Claims 22-25 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Wotton et al. ('618) reference.

Claim 22 has been amended to more clearly describe a heat conductive extension affixed to a body portion of a media support via a stationary connection. Support for this amendment can be found on at least page 6, lines 27 and 28 and in at least FIG. 6 of the specification.

The Wotton et al. ('618) reference discloses an apparatus 400 including a conductive heating mechanism 411 positioned to heat a region of belt 403 (FIG.

4; col. 5, lines 50-52). Belt 403 moves around a pair of drive rollers 405, 406 forming an endless conveyor (FIG. 4; col. 5, lines 44-48). A sheet of print media 205 is transported by belt 403 (FIG. 4; col. 5, lines 45-49)

The Wotton et al. ('618) reference does not disclose that heating mechanism 411 is affixed via a stationary connection to belt 403 through any type of heat conductive extension. In fact, the Wotton et al. ('618) reference appears to be completely silent on this feature of the present invention. This is because it would not be possible to drive belt 403 in the manner described in the Wotton et al. ('618) reference if this belt was affixed via a stationary connection to a heat conductive extension.

Additionally, the Wotton et al. ('618) reference does not disclose that heating mechanism 411 is affixed via a stationary connection directly to belt 403. Even though heating mechanism 411 heats a region of belt 403, belt 403 is driven, so if heating mechanism 411 was affixed via a stationary connection to belt 403, belt 403 would not function as intended. Therefore, it can not be said that the Wotton et al. ('618) reference discloses that a heat conductive extension is affixed to a body portion of the media support via a stationary connection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 22 is respectfully requested.

Claims 23-25 and 29 depending from claim 22 are considered patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 22.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahara in view of the Hudson ('509) reference.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 1. As such, Applicants consider claims 14 and 15 patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claims 14 and 15 is respectfully requested.

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahara.

Claim 21 depends from claim 1. As such, Applicants consider claim 21 patentable for at least the reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claim 21 is respectfully requested.

Claims 26-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wotton.

Claims 26-28 depend from claim 22. As such, Applicants consider claims 26-28 patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 22. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claims 26-28 is respectfully requested.

Regarding claims 21 and 26, Applicants submit that the subject matter of claims 21 and 26 would not have been an obvious matter of design choice for at least the reasons set forth in paragraphs [0035 and 0036] of the patent application publication (US 2005/0150130) corresponding to this application. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claims 21 and 26 is respectfully requested.

Regarding claim 27, Applicants submit that the subject matter of claim 27 would not have been an obvious matter of design choice for at least the reasons set forth in paragraph [0033] of the patent application publication (US 2005/0150130) corresponding to this application. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claim 27 is respectfully requested.


Regarding claim 28, Applicants submit that the subject matter of claim 28 would not have been an obvious matter of design choice for at least the reasons set forth in paragraphs [0030] of the patent application publication (US 2005/0150130) corresponding to this application. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claim 28 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the above amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned in the event that a phone interview will expedite prosecution of this application towards allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.